



The Parable of the Trapeze-The Meaning of Birth

Turning the fear of transformation into the transformation of fear...

Sometimes I feel that my life is a series of trapeze swings. I'm either hanging on to a trapeze bar swinging along or, for a few moments in my life, I'm hurtling across space in between trapeze bars.

Most of the time, I spend my life hanging for dear life to my trapeze-bar-of-the-moment. It carries me along at a certain steady rate of swing and I have the feeling that I'm in control of my life. I know most of the right questions and even some of the answers.

But, every once in a while as I'm merrily (or even not-so-merrily) swinging along, I look out ahead of me into the distance and what do I see? I see another trapeze bar swinging toward me. It's empty and I know, in that place in me that knows, that this new trapeze bar has my name on it. It is my next step, my growth, my aliveness coming to get me. In my heart of hearts I know that, for me to grow, I must release my grip on this present, well known bar and move to the new one.

Each time it happens to me I hope (no, I pray) that I won't have to let go of my old bar completely before I grab the

new one. But in my knowing place, I know that I must totally release my grasp on my old bar and, for some moment in time, I must hurtle across space before I can grab onto the new bar.

Each time, I am filled with terror. It doesn't matter that in all my previous hurtles across the void of unknowing I have always made it. I am each time afraid that I will miss, that I will be crushed on unseen rocks in the bottomless chasm between bars. I do it anyway. Perhaps this is the essence of what the mystics call the faith experience. No guarantees, no net, no insurance policy, but you do it anyway because somehow to keep hanging on to that old bar is no longer on the list of alternatives. So, for an eternity that can last a microsecond or a thousand lifetimes, I soar across the dark void of "the past is gone, the future is not here yet." It's called "transition." I have come to believe that this transition is the only place that real change occurs. I mean real change, not the pseudo-change that only lasts until the next time my old buttons get punched.

I have noticed that, in our culture, this transition zone is looked upon as a "no-thing," a no-place between places. Sure, the

old trapeze bar was real, and that new one coming towards me, I hope that's real, too. But the void in between? Is that just a scary, confusing, disorienting nowhere that must be gotten through as fast and as unconsciously as possible?

NO! What a wasted opportunity that would be. I have a sneaking suspicion that the transition zone is the only real thing and the bars are illusions we dream up to avoid the void where the real change, the real growth, occurs for us. Whether or not my hunch is true, it remains that the transition zones in our lives are incredibly rich places. They should be honored, even savored. Yes, with all the pain and fear and feelings of being out of control that can (but not necessarily) accompany transitions, they are still the most alive, most growth-filled, passionate, expansive moments of our lives.

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Jesus to Nicodemus-
"You must be born again." -Gospel of John, Chapter 3
Rebirth does not happen all at once but takes a lifetime.

To Be a Blessing— Same Gender Relationships

The Archbishop of Toronto, the Most Reverend Colin Johnson, has given permission for All Saint's Church to provide a service of blessing for committed, long term, same gender relationships for those who request it.

At this point we are the only parish in Trent Durham to be granted such permission. As a result we will be offer-

ing this ministry on behalf of our entire region.

We understand this blessing in the context of our baptismal covenant with God to respect the dignity of every human being and to enable all to grow into the fullness of Christ.

In this blessing there is a desire to publically acknowledge within the context of the faith community

the already present creating and loving nature of God.

The blessing reflects the importance of covenant and the promises of our baptismal vows as the foundation for living out our relationships. As a covenant people before God we make promises to live faithful lives of commitment with those we love. Please contact the rector for more information.

Confirmation—The Apostolic Laying on of Hands-April 29th

Preparation Meetings:

Wilson Lounge-lower hall

Adult—Monday evenings from 7-8:30 pm

Youth— Sundays after the 10:30 am service.

Service of Confirmation-Sunday, April 29th,10:30

Celebrant : Bishop Linda Nicholls— Bishop of Trent - Durham, Diocese of Toronto.

Confirmation is to confirm or strengthen one's faith through a renewal of your baptismal vows. Contact the Rector if you are interested.



Advent Listening Groups— Missional Transformational Church

Our Missional Guiding team continues to assist our congregation towards re-strategizing our parish mission. Throughout Advent several listening groups have been formed to discuss the results of our parish 360 survey. Feedback from

these groups will recommend several mission objectives to the parish advisory board in January. From among these proposals the advisory board will select those to be implemented as an experiment in new mission. Parish clergy and leaders continue to attend

training workshops and support groups for this purpose. Our thanks to Lois MacVichie, coordinator, and Jamie MacVichie, Peggy Watton, Jean Koning, Peter Savage, and the Reverends Bill Gray, Maisie Watson and Suzanne McMillan for leadership.

Christmas Candlelight Choral Service of Lessons and Carols

**Sunday, December 18,
4:00 pm**

Canon Dr. Giles Bryant,
Organist and Director of
the All Saints' Choir.

The Christmas Story
will once again be pre-
sented in lessons and
carols in preparation for
the celebration of

Christ's birth.

Please join us for this
splendid occasion which
is one of our favourite
annual traditions.

The Annual Meeting of the Church Vestry

**Sunday, February 26th,
after the 10:30 am service.**

Please join us for this im-
portant parish meeting.

We will review the past year
and discuss plans for our

church's future mission.

We review organizational
and parish reports.

We appoint parish officers
for the coming year.

We review parish priorities

and plans. Written organ-
izational reports are re-
quired by January 22nd for
publication. Requests for
items to be considered for
the agenda must be submit-
ted by January 31st.

Christingle—A Christmas Eve Gift from the Church School Youth— At the Christmas Eve Family Service-Saturday, Dec. 24th, 7:00 pm

Bonnie Thompson, our
church school coordinator,
along with the other Sunday
School staff, are organizing
the youth of our church to
prepare and present a spe-
cial gift for us to receive at
the Christmas Eve family
service.

This gift, to be made by our
church school youth, is
called the Christingle and is
comprised of an orange,
decorated with red ribbon,
with sweets and nuts placed
on four swizzle sticks and

completed by a small candle.
Each family will receive a
Christingle. The orange
represents the world, the rib-
bon Christ's blood, and the
sweets and nuts the fruits of
the earth, the four swizzle
sticks representing the four
seasons or the four corners of
the earth.

This tradition derives from a
Moravian custom of distrib-
uting lighted candles to chil-
dren on Christmas Eve to
celebrate Christ, the Light of
the World.

At an appropriate time in our
family service on Christmas
Eve the Christingle gifts will
be distributed to each family
and all of us will stand with
our gifts in the outside aisles
to form a circle around the
church with our candles
glowing in the semi darkness,
while we sing a Christmas
carol. No doubt the live
sheep will join our singing as
usual. Our thanks to Bonnie
Thompson, Ruth Gray, An-
drew Park, Cindy Edmonson
and our several teens who as-
sist with the church school.

Chancel Guild Arranges For New Sanctuary Candles

ALL SAINTS' ANGLICAN CHURCH,
PETERBOROUGH

A new, updated and improved
website will be launched in
December

Please look us up on the web
and see what's new

Our thanks to Alan

Wotherspoon for his work as
webmaster.

Please contact the office
regarding suggested

Thanks to a bequest from the estate of the late Agnes Moore, the Chancel Guild has purchased new liquid paraffin candles in her memory for the altars, processional torches, pew torches, advent wreath, and candleabras. This will eliminate the damage we've experienced from wax spills caused by the old beeswax candles. Madge Martin has donated a new memorial liquid paraffin Paschal or Easter/Christ candle in memory of her late husband Henry and late daughter Susan. Our thanks to chancel guild director Eleanor Bond, and candle supply coordinator Helen Coldwell, for making these arrangements.

The dedication and celebration of the gift of all candles will take place appropriately at the Christmas Eve candlelight service on Dec. 24th at 11:00 pm.

E-mail Saints @
allsaintspeterborough.org
www.allsaintspeterborough.org

Faithworks Campaign a Success

Thanks to all who participated, donated and worked for the Faithworks Campaign and especially those who helped organize the silent auction, chili lunch and the PWRDF guest speaker event on Faithworks Sunday.

Our Faithworks team is comprised of coordinator The Reverend Suzanne McMillan, and Rosemary Bruce, The Reverend Maisie Watson, John McMillan, Bill Hawks, Philip Lake, Bill & Sylvia Downey, Barb Wraight, Shirley Dale, Shirley Trussler, The Reverend Alan Wotherspoon, Vi & Tracy Wilkinson.

At time of writing we have raised approximately **\$10,250.00** including the proceeds from individual donations, fundraising and special donations from the All Saints' ACW and the Heritage Trust. More gifts may have been added later.

Faithworks is a ministry of the Anglican Diocese of Toronto of which we are a part that supports outreach initiatives for local, regional and global organizations that support community need and development.